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Alumni News

Rhode Island College

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The Associated Alumni of Rhode Island College of Education



ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. VI, No. 5

MAY - JUNE, 1958

ALUMNUS RETURNS

AS DEAN

Dr. Charles B. Willard, '34 will return to the College this fall to fill the newly established position of **Dean of Professional Studies**. In this capacity, he will assume overall responsibility for Professional Studies at the College. His duties will encompass those formerly assigned to the Chairman of the Division of Professional Studies and the Director of Training, and will include direction of the undergraduate professional sequence of studies and the coordination of the laboratory school and responsible teaching program with the College curriculum.

"Charlie" as he is known to his friends will return to Rhode Island from the University of Southern Illinois where he is serving as Professor of English Education. A graduate of La-Salle Academy (1928), he attended Providence College for one year and received his Bachelor of Education degree from R.I.C.E. He continued his studies in the fields of English and French at Brown University where he received his Master of Arts degree in 1939 and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1948.

He taught at George J. West Jr. High School and Roger Williams Jr. High School until 1946 when he became Director of the Providence Center of Rhode Island State College. During 1948-1949 he also lectured in English at Rhode Island College of Education. He saw military service as a Link Trainor Instructor with the U. S. Air Force (1942-1945) and as Occupational and Educational Counselor for the U. S. Army (1945-1946).

Dr. Willard joined the faculty of the University of Southern Illinois in 1949 as Assistant Professor of English Education. He has been serving as Supervisor of Student Teachers in English in the University School and in Southern Illinois area schools. He had also conducted classes at the University in Problems in the Teaching of English and in High School Methods.

The new Dean has taken part in numerous educational workshops and conferences. He is a member of the staff of the Illinois Curriculum Pro-

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Ann McSherry McLaughlin '52 was elected president of the Associated Alumni at the Annual Meeting May 24.

Other officers elected were: First Vice President, Margaret Grady Bresnahan '45, Second Vice President, James W. Donaldson '40, Treasurer, Donald Driscoll '54, Recording Secretary, Eleanor L. Molloy '35, Corresponding Secretary, Agnes J. Keenan '45. Elected to the nominating committee were: Donald F. Lyons '54, Clara Arrighi '32 and K. Claire King '44.

Named to committee chairmanships are Program, Frances Gallogly '52; Publicity, Virginia Hill Murby '44; Membership, Caroline Magnatta Marzilli '51; Legislation, Frank A. Carter Budget, Frank A. Bucci '54; Memorial, Dorothy McLear Sullivan '32.

gram; a member of the Executive Council of the Illinois Association of Teachers of English, in which he served as President and as Advisory Chairman; and a member of the Board of Directors, National Council of Teachers of English. He is a consultant in the teaching of English to the U. S. Armed Forces Institute and to several committees and publishers. He holds membership in several honorary and professional organizations, among them Phi Beta Kappa, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Honor Society, S.I.U., and the National Council of Teachers of English.

During his undergraduate years at Rhode Island College of Education, Dr. Willard was active in student organizations, serving as President of the Men's Club for two years and editor of the Anchor for one year. He delivered the Class Day Oration at the time of his graduation.

Mrs. Willard is the former Helen French '35 of Providence, a former Junior High School teacher. The Willards have five children.

DUES RAISED

Annual dues of the Associated Alumni were raised from one to two dollars a year by action of the Annual Meeting.

NOTED EDITOR

TO ADDRESS CONVOCATION

Norman Cousins, editor of the **Saturday Review**, will address the Rhode Island College of Education Commencement Convocation to be held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday (June 7) in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence, and will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Education.

Mr. Cousins has been editor of the Saturday Review since 1939. In connection with his editorship he has traveled throughout America and to every continent in the world. He has represented the **Saturday Review**, the National Broadcasting Company or the American Broadcasting Company at such events as the Egypt-Israeli crisis in 1956-1957, the Asian-African Conference at Bandung, Indonesia in 1955, and the Atomic Test Explosions at Bikini.

His books include "The Good Inheritance", "Modern Man Is Obsolete," "Talks With Nehru" and "Who Speaks for Man." He is the editor of "A Treasury of Democracy," "The Poetry of Freedom" and "Writing for Love or Money." Two volumes are now in preparation. During World War II he served the government as editor of "U.S.A.," distributed in many languages throughout the world.

Eleven colleges and universities have given him honorary degrees in literature, humane letters, and law. He is the recipient of many awards for his writing and his service to education. Mr. Cousins was the force behind the program which brought twenty-five Hiroshima Maidens to New York in 1955 for plastic surgery.

Alumni will NOT march in the Academic procession June 7. Seats will be reserved for alumni in the Auditorium; but admission will be by ticket only. Alumni desiring tickets should call or write the Alumni Office not later than Thursday, June 5, and pick up the tickets by noon June 6.

EULOGY TO A USED BUILDING

The address of farewell given on the occasion of the symbolic departure of the Alumni from the College on Alumni Day was written by Kathleen Ball '53 and read by Al Choquette '54. By popular request we print it here.

Before the Alumni Association begins its triumphant tour of the new campus, it is only fitting that we should officially bid farewell to the old building. It might have been appropriate for us to take a sentimental journey from cellar to rooftop—perhaps followed by a troupe of gypsy violinists alternately playing "Memories" and "This Old House" as tearful Alumni sought out each well-remembered nook and cranny.

Alas! We have no gypsies—either with or without violins. The stairs have become noticeably steeper through the years. And surely a building which has served well deserves a prouder demise than being set adrift on the Providence River by the tears of grief-stricken Alumni.

Through the years, this building has been the scene of many events—amusing, happy, proud. These are what we shall remember. Sixty years ago, this building, having won the war against quicksand, stood new and shining, to await the onslaught of thousands of students. It boasted two wide iron stairways with marble treads and landings of easy ascent. A large museum on the third floor was the subject of excited comment. (One mysterious stuffed creature from that museum has been exciting comment ever since, as new students spotted it in an out-of-the-way corner.) Best of all, the new college was only a three minute walk from the railway station—an obvious improvement over the old Benefit Street site despite the latter's highly advertised "horsecar communication" with the city.

In the earlier years, the campus had not yet taken on its starkly modern look which has been described as the Egghead's Answer to Smart Sam's Used Car Lot. Two curving walks led through a small park with formal gardens. Linden trees bordered the grounds and climbing yellow roses greeted the malingering student on that last minute dash to class.

There have been changes inside the building, too. Until 1928, the practice school occupied the first floor. The Kindergarten Room which once echoed to the innocent chant of "We're all in our places with bright shiny faces," later became the scene of involved political chicanery at class meetings as well as those memorable formal teas. On certain occasions, the room was

transformed to anything from a Southern plantation to a Paris street scene for the student dances. Some of us may remember the days of the Hired Chaperone. This estimable person was paid—handsomely we trust—to check all aspects of attire and decorum. The Hired Chaperone also personally ejected any non-conformist from the building. Ah! Those were the good old days!

The cooking school on the passageway to the gymnasium also deserves mention. What delightful moments were spent adding a pinch of this and a touch of that. There were moments of tragedy, too; especially when a daydreaming lass rushed to the rescue of a murdered muffin smouldering in the oven.

The gymnasium has had its share of wildly cheered sports events, rope climbing, and even story plays. No one will dispute, however, that it reached its peak as a fashion center when the accepted costume included the long, black stocking. The most hardened rule-breaker could do little about the stocking regulation, but even the F.B.I. would be hardpressed to detect the various devices other young ladies employed to disguise the fact that—horror of horrors—they had **bobbed** their hair.

The second floor is notable for the stage which opened into both the library and assembly hall—a thoughtful arrangement which meant the stage itself had to straddle the corridor. This gave R.I.C.E. the dubious distinction of having a corridor where one had to up a flight of stairs and down a flight of stairs to get from one end to the other. The Assembly Hall itself is remembered for song-contests, Stunt Nights, chapel exercises, endless speakers, and examination time when even the frieze over the stage seemed like just one more instrument of torture. The entrances to this chamber of sometimes mysterious rites were guarded by two faithful sentries: Diana with her arrows ready and Apollo who managed to look dignified even with a freshman beanie perched on his noble brow.

The library was the scene of the 9:29 scramble when books, carefully wrapped in the previous night's Providence Journal, were surrendered. The Student's Mail Board was always a popular spot, except when the ominous little white cards appeared bearing the carefully and politely veiled ultimatum "Please see me."

The third floor was distinctive in many ways. The Art Room swarmed with students trying to make an abstract giraffe look less like a duck. The Laboratories buzzed with swamis muttering incantations calculated to blow

ALUMNI HERE AND THERE

Emma G. Whiteknact '09, retiring principal of Kent Heights School in East Providence, was the subject of a recent Providence Sunday Journal feature story on her years as a teacher.

Robert J. Robillard '51 science teacher at Tilton-Northfield High School, Laconia, N. H., has been awarded a scholarship for the Academic Year Institute at Syracuse University for 1958-9. Believed to be the first such award to a public school teacher in New Hampshire, the scholarship will allow Mr. Robillard to receive his Master's Degree in science.

Catherine Casserly '31 was honored by her classmates at their annual reunion. She was presented a scarab bracelet.

Frances Gallogly '52 has been elected treasurer of the Cranston Teachers Association.

John J. Farrell '56, who received his M.A. degree from Columbia University in 1957, is teaching History at Briarcliff High School, Westchester, N. Y.

CLASS GIFTS NOTED

Announcement of two sizable class gifts to the College was made at the Alumni Day luncheon. The Class of 1923, through its president, Margaret Maloney Heaney, presented Dr. Gaige with a certificate for a \$300 silver service in memory of Charles Carroll. The Class of 1931, through Alumni Trustee Catherine Casserly, announced the establishment of a \$100 Scholarship to be presented each year to an incoming Freshman.

the whole building to smithereines. The Music Room rocked with the efforts of terrified apprentices striving to teach classmates the immortal "Little Red Wagon." Over in the speech department, one student practiced to die effectively, while another desperately tried to recall his first cue.

Each alumnus has his own particular associations with this building: from remembrances of a locker door that just would not budge, or automatic row in the cellar, or of that statue on the first floor that pointed the way to a nameless somewhere, to graduation day when we lined up on the esplanade ready to announce to the world, "Have ruler. Will travel."

We are about to see a new R.I.C.E. building—a building, new and shining, awaiting the onslaught of thousands of students—as this one was sixty years ago. In parting tribute, we can only say that this building served well. We were happy here. We loved it. One can not ask more of a building than this.

THREE HUNDRED ATTEND ALUMNI DAY

A spirit of reunion pervaded the halls of R.I.C.E. on Saturday, May 24, as alumni gathered to bid a collective farewell to the building that has housed the College for the last sixty years. The happy prospects of the new campus led to a feeling of separation without sentiment, as graduates from 1898 to 1957, many of whom were attending their first Alumni function, joined in the activities of the Day.

The Homecoming began with a congenial coffee hour followed by the Annual Meeting. President Edward P. Travers presided at the hour-long session which was climaxed by the election of new officers.

Dr. William C. Gaige, President of the College, spoke at the buffet luncheon held in the College gym. He reviewed recent developments at the College and the alumni responsibilities involved, and outlined possible future developments.

Highlight of the program was the transplanting of ivy from the old campus to the new. A brief review of the history of the old building was read by Albert Choquette '54, after which Aaron F. DeMoranville '25, a former president of the Associated Alumni, removed an ivy plant which he presented to his son, Earl, a sophomore at the College, for replanting on the new grounds. Approximately 300 alumni boarded buses and followed the father-son team to the new Mt. Pleasant site where they watched the completion of the ceremony and were guided around the new campus.

The Day closed with a Tea held in the Student Lounge of the old building. Members of the Class of 1923 made up the tea committee. Pourers included Josephine O'Connor Weicker and Miss Grace Gormley of the host class, and Mrs. Joseph McAlear, Mrs. Louis Willemmin, and Mary McCann Andrews.

Catherine Locke Heslin '28 was General Chairman of the Alumni Day committee. She was assisted by a large committee headed by the following chairmen: Reservations—Nancy Ferri Ronci and Elena Calabro Leonelli, co-chairmen; Luncheon—Miss Mary M. Keeffe; Tea, Mrs. Weicker and Mrs. Heaney, co-chairmen; Hospitality—Miss Mary K. Joyce and Miriam Geohegan Carey, co-chairmen; Tour—Donald F. Lyons and Albert Choquette, co-chairmen; Promotion—Donald J. Driscoll; Special Arrangements—Claire Hart Lennon; Awards—Ethel Gardner Johnson; Program—Miss Jean P. Mitson; Music—Miss Marianna Willard; Decorations—C. Owen

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES SCHEDULED

Two hundred twenty-one degrees will be awarded at Commencement Exercises to be held Saturday morning, June 7, at ten o'clock in the Veterans Auditorium. One hundred thirty-five seniors and thirty-eight teachers-in-service will receive Bachelor of Education degrees. Forty-three Master of Education degrees will be awarded. Four honorary doctorates and one honorary master of education degree will be presented.

Commencement Week opened Sunday with the Senior Vesper Service held in the College Auditorium at four o'clock. Invocation was given by Rabbi Reuben Bodek of the Bureau of Jewish Education, a member of the graduating class. The Reverend Walter Swanson of First Baptist Church, Bristol, read the Scriptures. Benediction was by Reverend David J. Coffey, Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Providence.

The Commencement Week activities continued Monday evening with the Commencement Dinner and Ball held at the Warwick Country Club.

Class Day will be held Friday at 2:30 P.M. on the grounds of the State House.

FORMER ALUMNI SECRETARY RETURNING TO RECEIVE DEGREE

Sister Mary Sebastian, U.T.S.V., better known to RICE alumni as Rae K. O'Neill '45, will be awarded her Master of Education degree at Commencement Exercises at the College June 7. The former Alumni Secretary and Public Relations Director of the College had completed course work toward her degree before she entered the Convent of the Sisters of St. Ursula of the Blessed Virgin in 1954. She completed her thesis under the direction of Professor Amy Thompson during the past two years when she has been teaching at the Notre Dame Convent School in New York City.

When Sister Sebastian crosses the stage to receive her diploma and hood from her erstwhile employer, Dr. Gaige, she will be the first nun to have been awarded an advanced degree at commencement exercises of the College of Education.

Ethier; Printing—Madeline Neary Brett; Publicity—Miss Kathleen Ball and Miss Mary Zajac; Ushers—Frank A. Bucci.

Nancy Tillighast Hunt '98 was the earliest graduate present, while several members of the Class of '57 vied for the honor of most recent. Gloria Dobson DeNeault '52 of White Plains, N. Y. was applauded as the alumna who had come the farthest.

EDNA McKEON HONORED

A special Alumni Day Award was presented to Edna Smith McKeon '15 at the May 24 luncheon. A glass serving plate etched with her initials and "R.I.C.E. Alumni Day, 1958" was given to Mrs. McKeon by Ethel Gardner Johnston, chairman of the Awards Committee.

All who have worked with Edna McKeon on any of the numerous alumni committees she has graced during the past thirty years would agree that the honor was well deserved. She was the first president of the Associated Alumni which was formed in 1928 to unite the graduates of the Normal School and the College of Education. Under her leadership the new Association grew and prospered. Upon leaving office she did not retire, but labored consistently through the years for the College and the Alumni.

Whatever she has been asked to do, whether it be advising, soothing troubled waters, serving refreshments, stuffing envelopes or soliciting memberships, she has done it willingly, always her smiling, courteous, unassuming self. Her present assignment is the chairmanship of the Alumni Room Committee, charged with the task of spending the Alumni Fund wisely in furnishing the formal lounge of the College.

Edna teaches at Natick School (Elementary) in Warwick and lives at 3 Lambert Street, Cranston.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

A two-hundred dollar scholarship will be awarded by the Associated Alumni to a deserving freshman each year beginning in September of 1959. Action taken at the Annual Meeting to establish the scholarship was the culmination of two years of investigation by the scholarship study committee.

The award will be made on the basis of scholarship and need and will entitle the recipient to \$100 in his freshman year and \$100 in his sophomore year.

ALUMNI FIGURE IN FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Dr. S. Elizabeth Campbell and Dr. Mary M. Keeffe '28 were among the five raised to the rank of Professor at the College recently. Others receiving the promotion were Dr. Helen E. Scott, Frank E. Greene and Russell Meinhold.

Rita V. Bicho '56 and John Nazarian '54 were promoted to Assistant Professor on the faculty. Mrs. Grace Preisser was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor.

GIFT LIST DISTRIBUTED

The following suggestion sheet of possible gifts to the new college was distributed on Alumni Day by Alumni Secretary Mary Davey. Emphasizing that the list was compiled on the urgent request of alumni and friends of the College, she pointed out the regrettable omission of one item — the \$200,000 swimming pool — from the list:

ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT TO GIVE ??? ..

Over the years alumni and friends of Rhode Island College of Education have been generous in making donations that have supplemented the public support of the College in such a way as to give future teachers of Rhode Island extra cultural and other benefits. Examples of this generosity are the John Alger Organ donated by the Associated Alumni, the Margaret Hill Irons Loan Fund which makes money available to students in need, and articles in silver from various sources. The reception room of the new College is being furnished by the Associated Alumni from funds collected for this purpose.

As the College plans to move to its new campus, many of its friends are interested in making gifts that will be used by faculty and students in the new building. The College would appreciate it if such gifts might be appropriated or purchased in cooperation with the College. Miss Mary G. Davey, Director of Public Relations and Alumni Secretary, will be happy to work with donors or groups of donors and the appropriate college departments or personnel in the selection of gifts. The following is a list of suggested gifts and some approximate costs:

Endowment Funds for Lectures, \$5,000 or more
Scholarship Funds—any amount
Main Gate, \$2,500
Murals for Administration Building Lobby, \$3,500
Landscaping
Equipment for Listening Booths in Library, \$500.00
Grand Piano(s)
Televisions for Lounge Areas, \$250.00
Paintings, at least \$100.00 each
Shelves of Books
Albums of Records
Vases and the object of art, from \$50.00
Building Name Plaques, \$100.00
Building Directory Boards, \$100.00
Silver Service Pieces
China, Silver Flatware, Table Linens
Outside Benches, \$200.00
Special Display Cabinets, \$100.00

A most valuable contribution to the College would be the giving of Un-

FORMER FACULTY FRIENDS

Robert Marshall Brown, Professor Emeritus of Geography, R.I.C.E., sat in his comfortable apartment on the East Side of Providence and reminisced about his friends and interests during the twenty-seven years he taught at the College. Pleasant associations with his colleagues, lasting interest in his pupils, exciting adventures of discovery, were brought to mind.

But Professor Brown is a man who lives in the present. He speaks expectantly of the planned reunion of his class of 1893 (Brown) and ruefully admits that his sixty-fifth year as an alumnus finds him less agile than he was in the days when he led field trips to study rock formations and collect geological specimens throughout the state. His reading table boasts the latest issues of the *Saturday Review*, *Science Journal* (Sigma Xi), and the publications of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association of American Geographers.

Following his retirement from R.I.C.E. in 1940 (he had served as acting president during 1939), Dr. Brown moved to Winter Park, Florida, returning to Rhode Island only for brief periods during the summer months. While in Florida he was associated with Rollins College and was active in the Winter Park University Club, serving as an officer for several years. He returned to Rhode Island two years ago when Mrs. Brown became ill. She died last fall.

DEDICATION DATE SET

While Rhode Island College of Education will open the 1958-9 year on its new campus on September 8, the official dedication of the buildings will not be held until Sunday, October 26. A committee of trustees, faculty and alumni of the College are making plans for a Dedicatory Year, to open with the fall activities and continue through spring of 1959.

designated Funds which could be used at the discretion of the College administration to meet those current or long-range needs of the College that cannot be met by the use of public funds.

Friends of the College may wish to augment funds that have already been set up. The Memorial Fund of the Associated Alumni is to be used in memory of Dr. Clara Craig, Dr. John L. Alger and Dr. Lucius Whipple. The Irons Fund is used to lend money to deserving students. The Carolyn Haverly Fund will be used for the beautification of the grounds of the new campus.

Professor Brown studied at Worcester Academy, received his A.B. from Brown University and his A.M. from Harvard University. R.I.C.E. awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1943. He served as a high school teacher and principal at Portsmouth, N. H. and taught at Worcester Normal School before joining the faculty of the R. I. Normal School in 1913.

A prolific writer in his field, Professor Brown has no less than eighty-one articles catalogued in the Brown University Library, and has written dozens of chapters, sections and sundry parts of books, two complete volumes, and a series of geography workbooks written in collaboration with Dr. Mary T. Thorp. He was for many years one of the editors of the *Journal of Geography*. Presently he is engaged in writing some vignettes from his personal experiences—such as his clash with the flat-earth theorists when the newspapers carried the story of his studies of the curvature of a body of water.

“A teacher must know his students, must like them, and must let them know that he likes them,” Dr. Brown feels. But he adds quickly that the teacher must know his subject matter completely, with an evident background of knowledge that will command the respect of his classes.

As the courtly gentleman with the twinkling eyes and the “men-of-distinction” look escorted his interviewer to the door he asked to be remembered to all his students and associates in his happy days at RICE.

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

Reading, Writing and Arithmetic will be the subjects of workshops to be held consecutively during the July 25—Aug. 6 Summer Session of the College.

Dr. Helen E. Scott will be coordinator of the first section — **Reading for the Elementary Schools**. Dr. S. Elizabeth Campbell will be Coordinator of the second section — **Language Arts in the Elementary School**. John F. Securo of Bristol will be coordinator of the third section — **Arithmetic for the Grades**. Guest lecturers in all sections will be announced shortly.

Each two week workshop meets from 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. with a half hour for lunch, and carries two credits.

The perennial **Driver Education Workshop** will meet June 25—July 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 Dr. Renato Leonell is co-ordinator.

The **Conservation and Outdoor Education** workshop will be under the direction of Dr. Mary M. Keeffe and will be held in two parts. A Camping Weekend will be held June 20 - 22 and the Conservation Course will begin June 23 and end July 3.